

# Glacier National Park

## Backcountry Camping Guide

photo by Becky Braun

### Backcountry Management in Glacier

Glacier represents the core of a vast tract of wildlands often referred to as the “crown of the continent.” More than 95% of Glacier’s 1,013,000-plus acres is proposed for inclusion in the national Wilderness Preservation System. It is the policy of the National Park Service to manage proposed wilderness areas in accordance with the Wilderness Act of 1964 in order to protect wilderness values and characteristics until such time as Congress acts.

The fundamental tenets of the Wilderness Act that are most visible to backcountry visitors include:

- Prohibition of motorized equipment and mechanized transport, including bicycles and canoe carts, in the backcountry (except during emergencies or to meet the minimum requirements for the administration of the area).
- Retention of the land’s primeval character and influence without permanent improvements (except for those authorized NPS administrative facilities essential to meet minimum requirements for the administration of the area and its historic structures).

During the summer camping season (May 1 to November 20), most backcountry travelers using Glacier’s extensive trail system are required to camp in designated backcountry campgrounds. This policy is validated by recreation ecology research that indicates widespread resource impacts can be minimized in popular areas by concentrating use in designated sites.

You will find no maintained trails or administrative facilities in Glacier’s pristine, off-trail areas. These vast areas offer greater solitude and challenge, but are extremely rugged, with greater inherent risks and infrequent ranger patrols. While off-trail travel is generally permissible, it is recommended only for very experienced, skilled backcountry travelers.

Glacier’s backcountry has grown in popularity over the years, resulting in cumulative impacts upon the park’s sensitive natural resources. High levels of backcountry use are typically concentrated in July and August, heightening the need for visitor stewardship and sound backcountry management practices.

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### Leave No Trace

#### Outdoor Skills and Ethics



Challenge, adventure, a sense of discovery, and solitude can be part of your backcountry experience. But in order to ensure that Glacier’s backcountry remains unimpaired for future generations, visitors must be motivated by an ethic that compels responsibility toward the resource. It is the task of every backcountry visitor to learn and practice Leave No Trace skills and ethics.

Leave No Trace outdoor skills and ethics is a national program promoting responsible outdoor recreation and stewardship of our public lands. The National Park Service is a cooperating partner in this program, along with other federal land management agencies.



Visit [www.Int.org](http://www.Int.org) to learn more about the Leave No Trace

### Practice the 7 Principles of Leave No Trace

#### Plan Ahead and Prepare

- Know and respect regulations and the risks inherent in backcountry travel.
- Select terrain, mileage, and elevation changes everyone in your group can handle.
- Carry adequate food, water, clothing, and the trip essentials (page 2).

#### Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces

- Camp in designated campsites to limit impacts.
- Stay on maintained trails and walk single file down the middle of the trail, even when muddy.
- Shortcutting switchbacks is destructive and illegal.
- If you travel off trail, walk abreast and select the most durable route. Avoid fragile vegetation and saturated soils. Choose durable surfaces such as rock, snow, gravel, or dry grasses for all activities.

#### Leave What You Find

- All natural and cultural resources are protected by law, with the exception of berries and fish for personal consumption only.
- Never make alterations to tent sites or natural features.
- Avoid new impacts to rehabilitated areas and blocked social trails.

#### Properly Dispose of Waste

- Keep Glacier litter free: pack it in - pack it out!
- Never bury food or garbage - pack it out.
- Use toilets when available for both urine and feces.
- In lieu of toilets, deposit feces in a cathole, 6-8" deep in organic soil, at least 200 ft. from water. Fill and disguise hole and pack out paper.
- Urinate on durable surfaces to reduce vegetation damage from salt-craving wildlife.

#### Minimize Campfire Impacts

- Self-contained camp stoves are the least impact.
- Fires are restricted to designated fire pits only.
- When permitted, collect down and dead wood only (size of wrist) and keep fires small and totally contained in fire pit.

#### Respect Wildlife

- Enjoy wildlife at a distance. Photograph with telephoto lens.
- Never intentionally approach, feed, or harass wildlife.
- Secure food and garbage properly. Remember - a fed bear is a dead bear.

#### Be Considerate of Other Visitors

- Avoid conflicts with other types of users.
- Keep group size small.
- Minimize noise in camp.

### Important Dates to Remember

#### April 16, 2001

First day to mail “Advanced Reservations” applications

#### May 1, 2001

First day for walk-in “Advanced Reservation” applications at the Apgar Backcountry Permit Center

#### May 1 - Nov. 19, 2001

Apgar Backcountry Permit Center open for walk-in permits  
**June 1 - Aug. 31, 2001**

Per night fees charged

#### Oct. 31, 2001

Apgar Backcountry Permit Center closes for the season  
**Nov. 20 - April 30, 2002**  
Winter permit season



# Practice Good Stewardship

## Plan Ahead and Prepare

Proper planning and preparation is the key to a successful trip. Read the detailed information in this publication. Carefully consider daily distances and elevation changes (both up and down). Make sure that the degree of difficulty of your itinerary is compatible with all members of your party. As a general rule, carrying a heavy pack for more than 10 miles and a 2,500 foot elevation change would constitute an extremely rigorous day.

**Detailed trip planning services are limited.** It is your responsibility to plan and prepare your outing. Hiking and camping guidebooks and topographic maps are available for reference at Visitor Centers and Ranger Stations, or for purchase through the Glacier Natural History Association (see back page).

## Setting Out

Check that you have all your gear. Take a moment to read trailhead signs. They contain important regulations and safety information.

Allow plenty of time for your trip. Consider distance, elevation, weight carried, physical condition, weather, and hours of daylight remaining. Early morning starts are recommended. Snow covers some trails well into July, so be prepared to do some route finding. Set a pace that all party members can handle.



## On the Trail

Help minimize impacts to fragile soil and vegetation. Stay on the trail and hike single file. Do not walk off-trail when the tread is muddy. Wear gaiters if mud is deep. Shortcutting switchbacks is destructive and illegal. Pick up litter found along the way. Select resilient areas such as rocks or snow for rest breaks and other stops.

Horses have the right-of-way. If you meet a horse party, step off of the trail on the downhill side and stand quietly until they pass.

For sanitation along the trail where toilets are not available, carry a trowel and bury feces in a cathole, 6-8" deep in organic soil, at least 200 ft. from water. Fill and disguise hole and pack out paper. Urinate on durable surfaces that will not be damaged by animals digging for salts and minerals found in urine.

## At Camp

Backcountry campgrounds have tent sites, pit toilets, food hanging devices, and food preparation areas. Tents must be pitched within designated tent sites. Avoid pitching tents on undisturbed vegetation and never dig or trench around a tent or pound nails in trees.

Fires are allowed only in some campgrounds. If permitted, build fires only in designated pits. Collect only dead and down wood. Keep fires small and completely within fire pits. Be sure the fire is out cold before you leave. You may burn paper refuse at sites where fires are allowed, but do not burn plastic, foil, or food.

Properly hang all food, cookware, and garbage on the designated food hanging device. A rope at least 25 feet long is required. Store other gear in your tent. Cook and eat only in the designated food preparation area. Avoid odorous foods and plan meals so there are no leftovers. Never cook or eat in your tent. Do not wash yourself, clothes, or dishes directly in a lake or stream. Strain food scraps from gray water and pack them out with your garbage. Scatter the gray water at least 100 feet from lakes and streams so that it will filter into the soil. Use biodegradable soap, if any. Pack out all garbage. Do not throw garbage or food scraps in the pit toilets; doing so may attract bears, and shortens the useful life of the pit toilet.

Please be considerate of others and keep noise or loud conversation to a minimum.

Deer, goats, porcupines, and other animals are attracted by sweat and urine. They can destroy vegetation, campsites, clothes, boots, and camping gear in search of salt and other sweaty gear. Urinate only in the pit toilets. When pit toilets are unavailable, urinate on rocks, gravel, or snow to prevent digging by animals.

Some campgrounds have been abused in the past, and efforts have been made to restore them. Please use only established trails and avoid revegetated areas or blocked social trails to aid in recovery.

## Trip Essentials

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Topographic maps</li><li>• Compass</li><li>• First Aid Kit</li><li>• Enough food (low-odor)</li><li>• Tent</li><li>• Sleeping bag and pad</li><li>• Appropriate footwear</li><li>• Appropriate clothing (layering concept is best)</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reliable rain/wind gear (jacket and pants)</li><li>• Lightweight campshoes</li><li>• A weatherproof food &amp; garbage hanging bag</li><li>• 25 feet of rope for hanging food and garbage</li><li>• Mesh or small strainer (for removing food scraps from gray water)</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Collapsible water container</li><li>• Lightweight campstove and adequate fuel</li><li>• Emergency signalling device</li><li>• Insect repellent</li><li>• Trowel for human waste disposal</li><li>• Water purifier, filter and/or treatment tablets</li></ul> |
|--|---|--|

## Stock Use

The use of pack and saddle stock is a long-standing tradition in Glacier's backcountry. Horses, mules, burros, and llamas are permitted on most of Glacier's trails, but are prohibited off trail. The majority of Glacier's backcountry campgrounds are open for stock use. Grazing is prohibited. Stock feed (hay cubes, oats, pellets, sweet feed, etc.) must be packed in, securely stored, and certified as weed-seed free. Spilled or leftover feed must be cleaned up and packed out. Obtain the *Private Stock Use* handout for more details.



## In Bear Country

Most backpackers never see a bear; however, people have been injured and killed by bears in Glacier National Park. Black bears and grizzlies may be encountered throughout Glacier.

Do not hike alone or after dark. Stay together in a group. Safety lies in numbers. Use caution in remote areas. Bears may not be accustomed to encountering people off the trail. Never approach a bear for any reason and leave the area if you see a cub. Avoid coming between the cub and mother. Be alert for signs of bear activity and take extra caution when fresh tracks, scat, disturbed logs, diggings, and overturned rocks are observed. Avoid obvious feeding areas, such as ripe berry patches, and never stay in an area where you smell or see a dead animal.

Make loud noises while hiking to avoid surprising a bear. Most bears will move off if they realize humans are in the area. Yell, sing, clap, or otherwise make loud noises to let them know you are coming. Bells, if large and noisy, may work, but the human voice when singing or calling out is more effective. Be especially alert on blind corners, in thick brush, on windy days, and near running water, where it is more difficult for bears to sense you.

Sleep in a tent. The physical barrier affords some protection. Keep a flashlight, noisemaker, or other deterrent handy in the tent at night.

### Odors Attract Bears

Stay clean, but avoid scented soaps, deodorants, and cosmetics. Although evidence is inconclusive, sexual activity or a woman's menstrual period may attract bears. Many women have traveled into Glacier's backcountry safely, during their menstrual cycle, by keeping themselves as clean and odor-free as possible. The premise is to keep a clean camp. Used feminine products should never be thrown into the backcountry pit toilets! Women should always hang any used feminine products with all other scented items and food. Many women fill a heavy duty Ziploc bag with some baking soda, put used feminine products inside, and then put that bag inside one or two more heavy duty Ziploc bags. NEVER keep this bag inside your tent and always hang with food.



# Know and Respect Park Regulations

## Backcountry Use Regulations

The following regulations apply to all backcountry use (day-use and overnight camping) in Glacier:

- Pets, firearms, motorboats, snowmobiles, and wheeled vehicles (including bicycles and canoe carts) are prohibited.
- All natural features are protected. Fish and edible berries may be harvested for personal consumption only. Check park regulations, or ask a park ranger, for limits. Picking mushrooms is prohibited.
- Hunting and trapping are prohibited.
- Wood fires are permitted in designated fire pits only.
- Pack out all refuse, including uneaten food and scraps.
- Stock use is restricted to designated trails and campgrounds.
- Grazing stock is prohibited.
- Feeding, disturbing, or harassing wildlife is unsafe and illegal.
- Fishing does not require a license. Obtain the Fishing Regulations handout when you pick up your permit.
- Shortcutting switchbacks is unsafe, destructive, and illegal.
- Human waste must be deposited in a toilet. In the absence of a toilet, deposit feces in a 6-8 inch deep “cathole” at least 200 feet from water sources and pack out toilet paper.
- Commercial use (including guiding and outfitting) is prohibited, unless authorized by a concession permit or commercial use license.



*Park regulations are intended to protect natural and cultural resources and visitor experiences and to ensure visitor safety.*

*It is your responsibility to know and respect all park regulations.*

*Stewardship of park resources depends as much on attitude and awareness, as on rules and regulations.*

*Failure to comply with backcountry camping regulations may result in the issuance of a Violation Notice and revocation of the permit in the field.*

## Backcountry Camping Policies

### The Backcountry Use Permit

- A Backcountry Use Permit is required for all overnight camping, and must be in your possession while in the backcountry.
- Permits are valid only for the dates, locations, and party size specified.
- Permits will be issued only to someone going on the trip, and not to any third parties.
- Permits must be picked up in person no sooner than the day before your departure. Reservations are held only until 10am the day of the trip.
- Backcountry Use Permits are generally issued for a maximum of six nights. Reservations may be requested for longer trips (i.e., Continental Divide National Scenic Trail), but may require a stop at a designated permit station along your route to pick up another permit for the portion of the trip exceeding six nights. The locations where this service is available are: Two Medicine, Many Glacier, and Goat Haunt Ranger Stations.

### Large Groups

The national Leave No Trace program encourages keeping group size small. This also increases your chances of obtaining your preferred itinerary. It typically is very difficult for large groups to obtain an adequate number of campsites. If a large group cannot be broken up, we will accommodate a limited number of advance reservations for large groups, based on the following criteria:

- Large groups requiring three campsites (9-12 persons) may submit an advance reservation application, postmarked no sooner than April 16.
- Applications will be reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis, and the first **five** large groups will be accommodated if campsites are available. The 50%, or majority, campsite quota for advance reservations will be waived for these first five groups.
- In the spirit of fairness, only one large group from the same school or institution will be accommodated.

All large groups will retain the option of requesting a walk-in permit, 24 hours or less prior to departure.

### Party Size

- Maximum overnight party size allowed is 12 persons.
- Campsites are limited to a maximum of four persons and two small 2-4 person tents. For example: parties of 1-4 people will need one campsite, parties of 5-8 people will need two campsites, and parties of 9-12 people will need three campsites.

## In Bear Country...continued

### Especially Dangerous Situations

- Surprise encounters may startle a bear and trigger an attack.
- A female with cubs is fiercely protective of her young and may attack.
- Bears rigorously defend food sources like berry patches and dead animals.
- A bear that gets food from humans may become aggressive toward people in order to get more food. Such a bear will have to be destroyed. A fed bear is a dead bear. Never feed a bear or leave food or garbage where a bear can get it. Regulations against feeding animals or leaving food and garbage unattended are strictly enforced.
- Harassment, such as intentionally approaching a bear for photography or any other reason, may trigger an attack.

### If You Encounter a Bear

- Keep calm and Do Not Run, or the bear may chase you. You can't outrun a bear.
- Assume a non-threatening posture by turning your head to break eye contact. Bears may perceive eye contact as a threat.
- Talk softly and retreat slowly.

### If You are Charged

- Drop something to distract the bear (try to drop something that does not contain food).
- Do not climb a tree, since you will seldom have time to climb out of reach and many bears, including grizzlies, can climb trees.
- If the bear makes contact, protect your chest and abdomen by falling to the ground on your stomach, or assuming a fetal position to reduce the severity of an attack. Cover the back of your neck with your hands. Do not move until you are certain the bear has left.



## Pepper Spray

The use of pepper spray as a bear deterrent is a personal choice. If you carry it, be aware that wind, spray distance, rain, and product shelf life all influence its effectiveness. Do not let it serve as a false sense of security or as a substitute for recommended safety precautions while in bear country. Canadian Customs will allow the importations of USEPA-approved bear spray into Canada. Specifications state that the bear spray must have USEPA on the label.

***Bears May Attack at Night or After Stalking People! This kind of attack is rare but can be very serious because it often means the bear is looking for food and preying on you. If you are attacked at night or are stalked and attacked as prey, try to escape. If you cannot escape, or if the bear follows, use pepper spray, or shout and try to intimidate the bear with a branch or rock. Let the bear know you are not easy prey.***



Campground Information and Map

Accept the Risks

Risk is inherent with backcountry travel in Glacier and there is no guarantee for your safety. Significant hazards that you may have to contend with include:

- Slippery and often treacherous stream and river crossings
- Steep, icy snowfields
- Precipitous cliffs and ledges and unstable sedimentary rock
- Dangerous wildlife
- River hazards (deceptive currents, white water, log jams, sweepers and strainers)
- Ever-changing weather, including sudden snowstorms and lightning

Glacier has many stories of poorly prepared, careless, or unlucky visitors who have experienced life-threatening emergencies, some-times ending in tragedy. While the National Park Service is renowned for its search-and-rescue capabilities, these services are often hours, if not days, away. The following factors commonly result in back-country emergencies in Glacier:

- Failure to plan ahead and prepare
- Solo backcountry travel
- Inadequate footwear, clothing, or equipment
- Lack of skill or physical fitness level for type of terrain or outing
- Impaired or poor judgement, sometimes induced by fatigue, exhaus-tion, or hypothermia
- Unsafe behavior in bear country
- Failure to let family and/or friends know of your specific plans or route

Snow & Water Hazards

Trail status reports are available online at [www.nps.gov/glac/activities/trails.htm](http://www.nps.gov/glac/activities/trails.htm) and at Backcountry Permit issuing stations. This report notes current snow and water haz-ards, and the schedule of bridge installation throughout the park. The most significant snow and water hazards are noted on the adjacent map and on the *Trails Illustrated/National Geographic Topographic Map of Glacier and Waterton Lakes National Park*.

Water Treatment

The protozoan Giardia lamblia may be present in lakes and streams. When ingested, their reproductive cysts can cause an intestinal disorder that may appear weeks after your trip. Carry drinking water with you, or boil, filter, or treat water. The easiest method of effective water treatment is to boil the water for one minute (up to three minutes at higher elevations) or use a filter capable of removing particles as small as 1 micron.



Hypothermia

Check the latest weather forecast, and be prepared for sudden weather changes. Cool, wet, and windy conditions can cause a serious medical condition called hypothermia. Hypothermia is a progressive lowering of the body's core temperature causing physical collapse and diminished mental capacity. Prevent hypothermia by using rain gear before you become wet. Minimize wind exposure and if your clothes become wet, replace them with dry ones. Avoid sweating in cold weather by dressing in layers, rather than a single bulky garment. On warm sunny days watch out for signs of heat exhaustion. Stay well-hydrated in all conditions.

Solo Travel

Solo travel in the backcountry is not recommended. The best insurance for a safe and enjoy-able trip rests with your ability to exercise good judgement, avoid unnecessary risks, and assume responsibility for your own safety while visiting Glacier's backcountry.

Camping in Undesignated Sites

Backcountry travelers wishing to explore remote, off-trail routes in Glacier may request a permit to camp in an undesignated campsite. This special privilege is subject to approval on a case-by-case basis. Stringent policies and regulations associated with Leave No Trace outdoor skills and ethics and the protection of resource and social values govern the approval process. This privilege is not available to parties travelling via the park's trail system. Advance reservations are not available for undesignated campsites.

Continental Divide Trail

The Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDT), follows a 3,100-mile route from Canada to Mexico. A 110-mile segment runs through Glacier. The desig-nated CDT route, and an early/late season alternate route, are marked in blue on the map. Continental Divide Trail hikers entering Glacier at Marias Pass, or the Canadian Border, should write for additional information.

Nyack/Coal Creek Camping Zone

This area offers exceptional opportunities for solitude and higher levels of challenge and risk. It is best suited to very experienced backcountry travelers well-versed in Leave No Trace outdoor skills. Brushy trails and unbridged stream crossings will be encountered here. Camping is not restricted to designated campgrounds. Outside designated campgrounds, camping is limited to two nights at any one site and a party size of six people. Campsites must be at least 100 feet from lakes or streams, 0.5 mile from any patrol cabin or designated campground, at least 50 yards from trails, and out of sight and sound of trails and other parties. Wood fires are not allowed so you should have a self-contained stove for cooking. You must be prepared and equipped to secure food and garbage twelve feet up and six feet away from tree trunks.

Campground List

		Total Sites & Number of Reservable Sites	*Earliest Available Date	Stock	Special
ADA	Adair	4 - 2	6/15	8	
AKO	Akokala Lake	3 - 2	6/15	0	●
ARR	Arrow Lake	2 - 1	6/15	8	●
ATL	Atlantic Creek	4 - 2	6/15	8	
BEA	Beaver Woman Lake	2 - 2	7/15	10	●
BOU	Boulder Pass	3 - 2	8/1	0	●
BOW	Bowman Lake HD	6 - 3	6/15	8	
BRO	Brown Pass	3 - 2	7/15	0	●
CAM	Camas Lake	2 - 1	7/15	0	●
COA	Coal Creek	2 - 2	6/15	10	
COB	Cobalt Lake	2 - 1	8/1	0	● ①
COS	Cosley Lake	4 - 2	6/15	8	●
CRA	Cracker Lake	3 - 2	6/15	0	●
ELF	Elizabeth Lake FT	5 - 3	6/15	8	● ①
ELH	Elizabeth Lake HD	4 - 2	6/15	8	● ②
ELL	Lake Elen Wilson	4 - 2	8/1	8	● ①
FIF	Fifty Mountain	5 - 3	8/1	8	●
FLA	Flattop	3 - 2	7/15	8	●
FRA	Lake Francis	2 - 1	6/15	0	● ①

		Total Sites & Number of Reservable Sites	*Earliest Available Date	Stock	Special
GAB	Gable Creek	4 - 2	6/15	8	
GLF	Glenns Lake FT	4 - 2	6/15	8	●
GLH	Glenns Lake HD	3 - 2	6/15	0	
GOA	Goat Haunt Shelters	7 - 4	6/15	0	① ☆
GRA	Grace Lake	3 - 2	7/1	0	
GRN	Granite Park	4 - 2	7/15	0	● ① ☆
GUN	Gunsight Lake	7 - 4	7/1	8	●
HAR	Harrison Lake	3 - 2	6/15	8	
HAW	Hawksbill	2 - 2	6/15	0	●
HEL	Helen Lake	2 - 1	7/1	0	●
HOL	Hole in the Wall	5 - 3	8/1	0	● ①
ISA	Lake Isabel	2 - 1	7/1	0	
JAN	Lake Janet	2 - 1	6/15	8	
KIN	Kintla Lake HD	6 - 3	6/15	8	◆
KOO	Kootenai Lake	4 - 2	6/15	8	●
LIN	Lincoln Lake	3 - 2	7/1	8	●
LNJ	Lower Nyack	2 - 2	7/15	10	
LOF	Logging Lake FT	3 - 2	6/15	0	
LQU	Lower Quartz Lake	4 - 2	6/15	8	

		Total Sites & Number of Reservable Sites	*Earliest Available Date	Stock	Special
MAN	Many Glacier Auto CG	2 - 1	6/15	0	① ☆
MCD	McDonald Lake	2 - 1	6/15	0	◆
MOJ	Mokowanis Junction	5 - 3	6/15	8	●
MOL	Mokowanis Lake	2 - 2	7/1	0	●
MOR	Morning Star Lake	3 - 2	7/15	0	●
NON	No Name Lake	3 - 2	7/15	0	● ①
OLD	Oldman Lake	4 - 2	7/15	8	● ①
OLC	Ole Creek	3 - 2	6/15	8	
OLL	Ole Lake	2 - 2	6/15	8	
OTO	Otokomi Lake	3 - 2	7/15	0	●
PAR	Park Creek	3 - 2	6/15	8	
POI	Poia Lake	4 - 2	6/15	8	●
QUA	Quartz Lake	3 - 2	6/15	0	●
REF	Red Eagle Lake FT	4 - 3	6/15	0	●
REH	Red Eagle Lake HD	4 - 3	6/15	8	●
REY	Reynolds Creek	2 - 2	6/15	8	☆
ROU	Round Prairie	3 - 2	6/15	0	● ☆
SLI	Slide Lake	2 - 2	6/15	8	
SNY	Snyder Lake	3 - 2	6/15	8	●

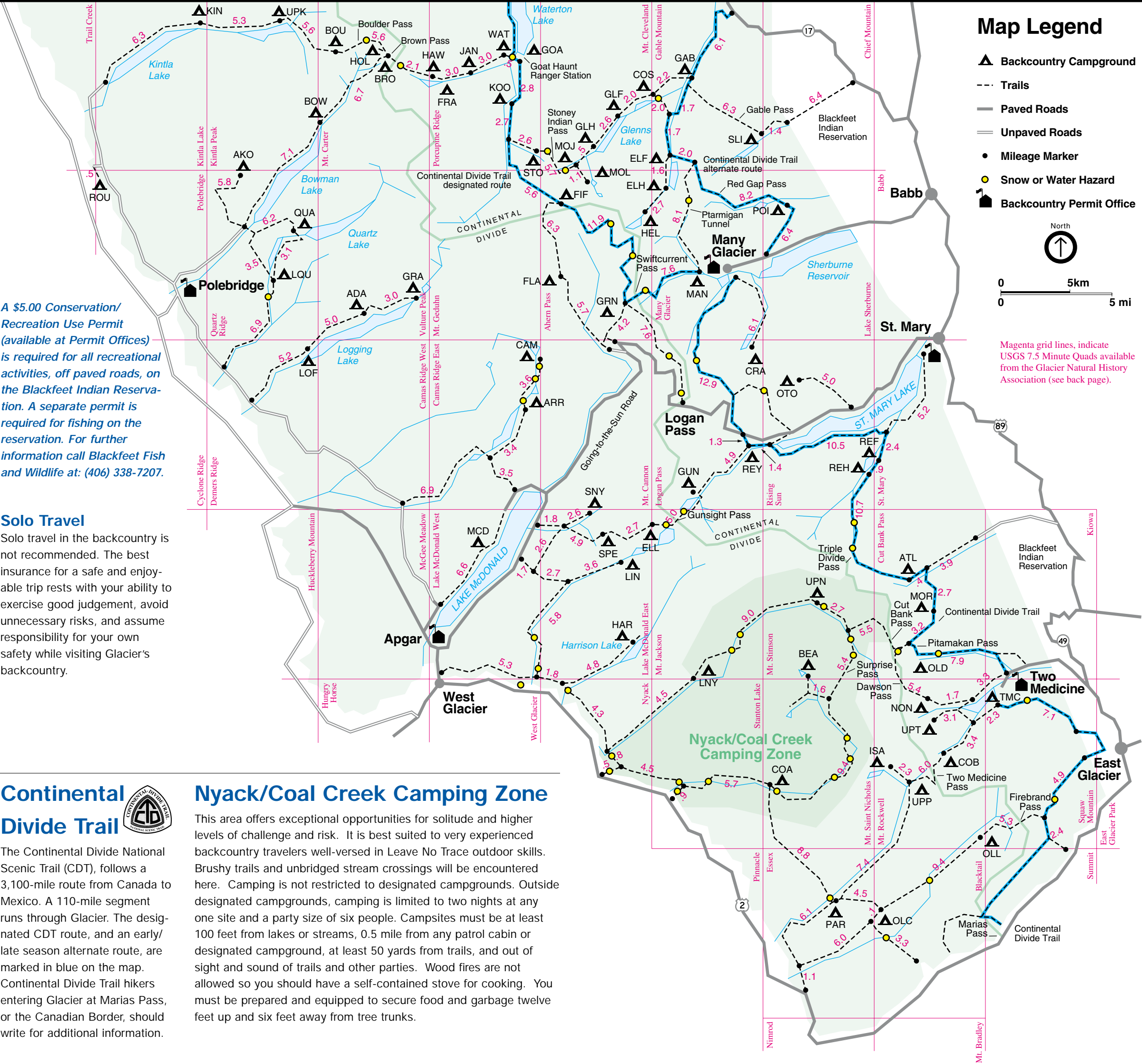
		Total Sites & Number of Reservable Sites	*Earliest Available Date	Stock	Special
SPE	Sperry	4 - 2	8/1	0	● ①
STO	Stoney Indian Lake	3 - 2	8/1	0	● ①
TMC	Two Medicine Auto CG	2 - 1	6/15	0	① ☆
UPK	Upper Kintla Lake	4 - 2	6/15	8	
UPN	Upper Nyack	2 - 2	7/15	10	
UPP	Upper Park Creek	3 - 2	6/15	8	
UPT	Upper Two Med Lake	4 - 2	7/1	0	● ①
WAT	Waterton River	5 - 3	6/15	8	

In July and August, the campgrounds highlighted in blue typically fill first.

**\*Earliest Available Date**  
This column shows the earliest date that a campground is available as part of an advance reservation. Although all advance reservation applications may be submitted starting April 16, do not submit one that requests a campground with dates prior to those listed. In a typical summer the dates listed represent the time of year the campground is snow free and available for backcountry campers.

Special Conditions

- Fragile area, no wood fires.
- ① One night limit in July and August.
- ② Two night limit at Elizabeth Lake Head.
- ☆ **Goat Haunt Shelters** are three-sided camping structures near the boat dock at the head of the lake.
- ☆ **Granite Park**, in July and August, must be part of an extended itinerary of two or more nights in backcountry campsites.
- ☆ **Many Glacier and Two Medicine Auto Campgrounds** are reservable on extended itineraries of three or more nights. These campsites are not available on the first night of an itinerary if the trip begins at Many Glacier or Two Medicine.
- ☆ **Reynolds Creek** must be part of an extended itinerary of three or more nights in backcountry campsites. Reynolds Creek may not be the first night of a trip that starts on the Going-to-the-Sun Road, or the last night of a trip ends on the Going-to-the-Sun Road.
- ☆ **Round Prairie Campground** provides three campsites, two of which are reserved for river floaters each night.
- ◆ Access by motorized watercraft prohibited.





# Obtaining Your Backcountry Use Permit

## Permit Fees

The following per person per night fees will be charged on all permits issued between June 1 and September 30

- Age 17 and over \$4.00
- Age 9 through 16 \$2.00
- Age 8 and under free
- Golden Age and Golden Access cardholders \$2.00
- Backcountry camping season pass \$50.00

The season pass is valid for one year from date of issue, and covers per night camping fees for the individual named on the pass. It does not cover advance reservation fees.

## Summer Season Walk-in Permits

During the summer camping season (May 1 through November 19), Backcountry Use Permits must be picked up in person no sooner than 24 hours in advance of your departure at a designated permit station. The advance reservation fee (\$20) will not be charged when you request a permit less than 24 hours in advance.



- Permits may be obtained by stopping in at any of the following designated backcountry permit issuing stations:
- Apgar Backcountry Permit Center (open daily from May 1 through October)
  - St. Mary Visitor Center (open daily from late May through September)
  - Many Glacier (open late May to mid-September)
  - Two Medicine and Polebridge Ranger Stations (open daily from early June through mid-September)
  - Park Headquarters (weekdays when the Apgar Backcountry Permit Center has closed for the season)
  - Apgar Visitor Center (weekends when Apgar Backcountry Permit Center has closed for the season)
  - Waterton Lakes National Park Visitor Reception Centre (open daily from early June through mid-September) accepts payment by credit card only (no cash), plus additional phone charge.

## Winter Season Permits

During the winter season (November 20 through April 30), Backcountry Use Permits may be requested and approved in person or by telephone, up to seven days in advance. Approved permits must be picked up in person. There are no fees for winter Backcountry Use Permits. All parties will receive the weekly avalanche and other pertinent advisories and regulations.

- Winter permits may be obtained at the following locations:
- Apgar Visitor Center on weekends and some holidays
  - Park Headquarters on weekdays
  - St. Mary, East Glacier, and Polebridge Ranger Stations (only if you call ahead and make arrangements)

*Advance reservations may be requested for any of Glacier's backcountry campgrounds through both a mail-in and walk-in system for trips that occur between June 15 and October 31 of the current calendar year.*

*Advance reservations will be accepted for 50% (or the majority if an odd number) of the campsites within each designated campground. In some campgrounds with only two campsites, both may be reserved in advance. The remaining campsites will be available for walk-in requests (24 hours or less in advance).*

## Advance Reservation Requests - By Mail or In Person

Advance reservations may be requested only for trips beginning June 15 through October 31. Advance reservation applications are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis, with postmarks no sooner than **April 16, 2001**. Walk-in requests for advanced reservations may be made starting May 1, 2001, at the Apgar Permit Center, and at other permit stations as they open for the season.

Applications may be submitted via U. S. and International mail, FedEx, UPS, or other overnight mail services. Phone-in, FAX or electronic mail applications will not be accepted.

Advance reservation applications will be accepted on the official form only.

A fee of \$20 must be submitted with each application. This fee may be submitted via personal check, money order, or credit card only. Reservation requests arriving without the fee payment, or unable to be filled, will have their payment and request returned.

**Do not include per person per night fees with your reservation request. They will be collected when you pick up your permit.**

We will make every effort to fill advance reservation requests. We strongly encourage you to develop a second choice itinerary that may explore some of the less popular areas, if your first choice is not available. Successful applicants will receive a confirmation letter. The \$20 reservation fee will be deposited upon confirmation of a reservation.

Due to unpredictable campground opening dates, each campground has an “earliest available date” that applies to advance reservation itineraries. These dates are noted on pages 4 & 5. Although all advance reservation applications may be submitted starting April 16, do not submit one that requests a campground with dates prior to those listed. In a typical summer the dates listed represent the time of year the campground is snow free and available for backcountry campers.

Backcountry campgrounds that emerge from snow cover and are placed in an “open” status prior to the dates specified will be made available on a walk-in basis.

## Advance Reservation Itinerary Changes

Requests to change confirmed advance reservations will not be accepted via phone. You have the following options:

- Call and cancel your reservation and submit a new application.
- Try to change your itinerary at the time of permit issuance.

## Refund/Cancellation Policies

A full refund of your advance reservation application fee will be provided under the following circumstances:

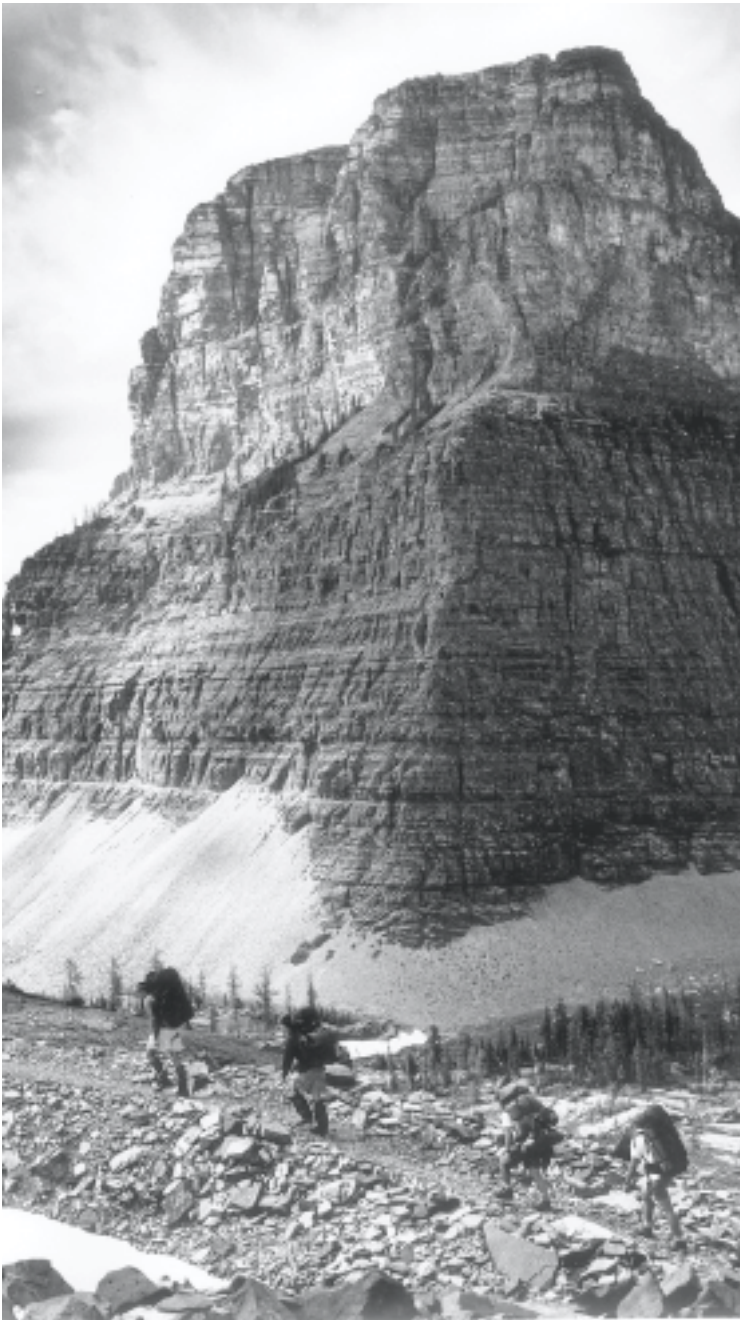
- Your initial advance reservation application is unsuccessful because campsites are not available.
- Upon arrival in the park, your itinerary includes officially closed trails or campgrounds.

In the event that your plans change and you cannot visit Glacier to use your advance reservation, you are encouraged to call and cancel your trip. A refund will not be provided, but you would allow other visitors to enjoy campsites that otherwise will go unused.





# Additional Information



## Bear-Resistant Food Containers

Bear-resistant food containers are currently available at most backcountry permit issuing stations for undesignated camping parties to check out, free of charge. These high impact resistant cylinders offer an excellent option for proper food storage, and are required in areas where options for proper food hanging are limited (near or above treeline, on mountain peaks, etc.).

## Backcountry Permit Cancellations

If you end a trip early, please notify a park ranger, or call Park Headquarters (888-7800) to cancel your permit so that other backpackers can use the campsites.

## Bear Sightings


Please report any bear or unusual animal sightings, trail conditions, or incidents to the nearest ranger station or visitor center.

## etc...

- Deer, mountain goats, marmots, and other rodents are attracted to urine and sweat. They will chew holes in clothes, boots, and camping gear if left unattended.
- Mosquitoes and flies can be a nuisance in some areas throughout July and August. Bring insect repellent or be prepared to cover up with lightweight clothing and perhaps a headnet.
- If you find litter in the backcountry, please pack it out. If you cannot pack it out, please notify park rangers where it is.
- In the spirit of preserving natural and cultural resources, please leave all natural objects and cultural artifacts where you find them.

**Thank you for your partnership in protecting  
Glacier’s backcountry and your National Park.**

**“Keep Wilderness Wild”**



Permit #	Last Name	Date Written and Initials
Office Use Only	Office Use Only	Office Use Only

## Advance Reservation Application

### Advance Reservation Checklist

**Stop! Before mailing your application have you?**

1. Reviewed the information and instructions carefully?
2. Cross-referenced availability dates and special conditions noted in the campground chart on pages 4 & 5?
3. Thoroughly completed the application?  
Incomplete applications will be returned.
4. Highlighted your route on the map on the back side of the application?
5. Enclose \$20 fee (in U. S. funds), for each trip request, payable to Glacier National Park Backcountry Reservations?
6. Waited until April 16, 2000, to mail in your application to the following address:

Backcountry Reservation  
Glacier National Park  
West Glacier, MT 59936

*Itineraries must be contiguous and follow existing trails or short segments of road.*

### Requested Trip Itineraries (please print)

1st Choice				2nd Choice			
Day	Date	Code	Campground Name	Day	Date	Code	Campground Name
Example	8/16	CRA	Cracker lake	Example	8/16	CRA	Cracker lake
Night 1				Night 1			
Night 2				Night 2			
Night 3				Night 3			
Night 4				Night 4			
Night 5				Night 5			
Night 6				Night 6			

### Trip Leader Information (please print)

Name	Number of Campers
Address	Number of Stock
	Number of Watercraft
	Daytime Phone Number
City	Evening Phone Number
State and Zip	email address

### Method of Payment (\$20.00 U. S. funds)

<input type="checkbox"/> Check	Card Number
<input type="checkbox"/> Money Order	Expiration Date
<input type="checkbox"/> Visa	Name on Card
<input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard	
<input type="checkbox"/> Discover	Signature

### What If Your First or Second Choice of Itinerary is not Available?

Will you accept different start and end dates?	In order to secure a trip, will you accept any route available for the dates you have listed?
Earliest Starting Date:	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Latest Ending Date:	
Will you accept minor changes on your first or second choice itinerary...for example: different campgrounds, reverse route, etc.	Comments:
Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	



# Helpful Publications

## Glacier Natural History Association

The Glacier Natural History Association (GNHA) is a nonprofit organization working with the National Park Service to assist Glacier's educational and interpretive activities, cultural programs, and special projects related to visitor services.

GNHA stocks a number of publications that are excellent pre-planning guides to a trip in Glacier's backcountry. Any of the publications listed are highly recommended, and may be purchased in person or through the mail.

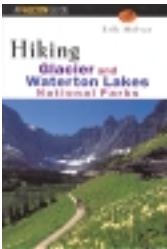
To order by phone or to obtain a complete catalog of publications, write or call:

GNHA  
Box 428  
West Glacier, MT 59936

(406) 888-5756  
gnha@glacierassociation.org

Visit the Glacier Natural History Association online.  
<http://www.nps.gov/glac/gnha.htm>

Suggested Publications to Assist in Trip Planning		
Hiker's Guide to Glacier National Park	Glacier Natural History Association	\$10.95
Hiking Glacier and Waterton Lakes National Parks	Erik Molvar	\$14.95
Trails Illustrated Topographic Map of Glacier and Waterton Lakes National Park	Trails Illustrated	\$9.95
Bear Aware	Bill Schneider	\$6.95
Leave No Trace Outdoor Skills and Ethics Rocky Mountains	National Outdoor Leadership School	\$1.50
About Bears	Glacier Natural History Association	\$1.00
Leave No Trace Trowel	Northwest Interpretive Association	\$2.50
Bear Attacks:Their Causes and Avoidances	Stephen Herrero	\$16.95
A Climber's Guide to Glacier National Park	J. Gordon Edwards	\$12.95
U. S. G. S. Topographic Map of Glacier (1998)	U. S. Geological Survey	\$7.00
U. S. Geological Survey Topographic Quad Maps	U. S. Geological Survey	\$4.00



## Special Package Deal!

Backcountry Users Package \$29.95

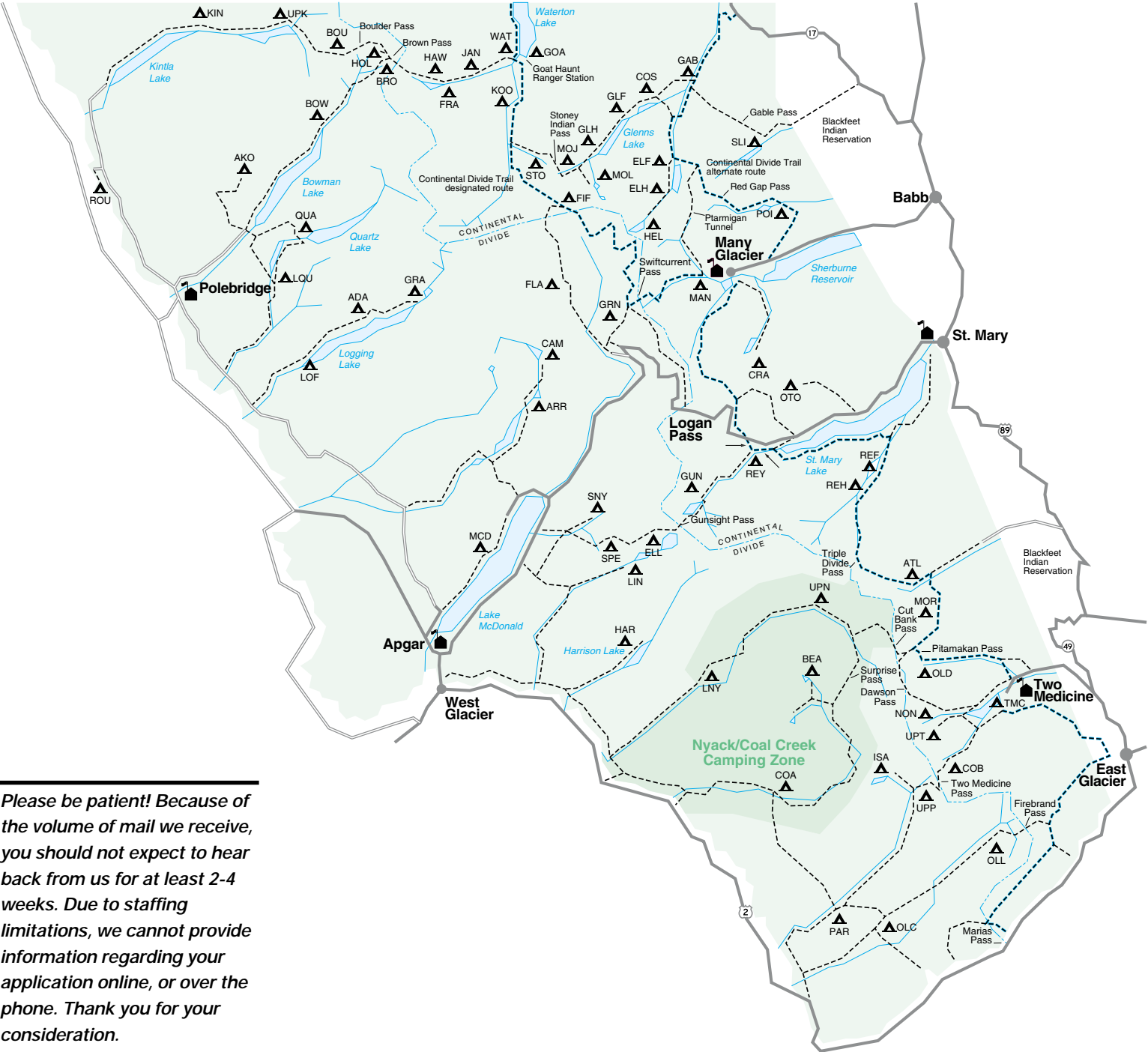
Special package price, regularly a \$44.00 value!  
Includes all of the essentials needed to make your backcountry stay in Glacier enjoyable for you as well as future users.

- Includes:
- Hiking Glacier and Waterton Lakes National Parks
  - Trails Illustrated Topographic Map of Glacier and Waterton Lakes National Park
  - Bear Aware
  - Leave No Trace Outdoor Skills and Ethics Rocky Mountains
  - About Bears
  - Wilderness First Aid
  - Leave No Trace Trowel



Sunrise at Lake Francis

## Glacier National Park Campground Map



Using the map to the left, highlight your route with a colored marker.

Backcountry permit staff will use it to help identify your planned itinerary and your entry and exit point.

Please be patient! Because of the volume of mail we receive, you should not expect to hear back from us for at least 2-4 weeks. Due to staffing limitations, we cannot provide information regarding your application online, or over the phone. Thank you for your consideration.